



# HAZARDOUS WASTE & YOUR SCHOOL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 1

## Did you know?

➡ Each individual program or activity conducted at your school may generate quantities of hazardous wastes. These include (but are not limited to):

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ science laboratories | ✓ cosmetology             |
| ✓ facility maintenance | ✓ auto body & auto repair |
| ✓ graphic arts         | ✓ plumbing & heating      |

When all of these wastes are added together, you can determine your school's hazardous waste category and which rules are applicable to your situation. If you are not sure whether you have hazardous wastes on-site, refer to the back page of this notice for a description of some of the types of wastes that are regulated as hazardous.

➡ Hazardous wastes are required to be handled properly from their initial point of generation (cradle) to their ultimate point of disposal (grave).

➡ If you routinely generate hazardous wastes (as most schools do), you should **not** be obtaining temporary hazardous waste identification numbers each time you ship wastes off-site. Instead, you should have a permanent, site-specific hazardous waste identification number.

➡ If you do not have a permanent site-specific hazardous waste identification number, but regularly have hazardous wastes on-site, you need to calculate the quantity of hazardous wastes your school generates each month and inventory the total accumulation of hazardous waste on-site. This information will be the basis for your hazardous waste generator category. How much hazardous waste you can keep on-site and how long you can store it will depend on this categorization.

➡ If you generate, store or offer for transport very small quantities of hazardous wastes from your school — <100 kg (which is approximately 27 gallons) per month — you are **required** to register with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). If you generate more than 100 kg of hazardous waste or more than 1000 kg of waste oil in a month you are **required** to notify MA DEP in order to obtain a site specific hazardous waste identification number. This number will be used on all forms tracking the shipment of your wastes off-site.

➡ The more hazardous wastes you have at your school, the more regulations you are required to comply with! That's why it makes sense to limit the amount of wastes you generate or store.



## How do you know if you have hazardous waste?

A waste may be hazardous either because it is listed in the regulations or because it is defined as hazardous by its characteristics. The characteristics that make a waste hazardous include:

**Ignitability** (easily catches fire, for liquids, a flash point < 140 degrees F)

**Corrosivity** (easily corrodes materials or human tissue, very acidic or basic,  $\text{pH} \leq 2$  or  $\geq 12.5$ )

**Reactivity** (explosive, produces toxic gases when mixed with water or acid); and

**Toxicity** (can leach toxic chemicals as determined by a special laboratory test).

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are supplied by distributors when chemicals are purchased. These MSDS sheets are often useful in determining the chemical properties of the wastes you have at your school. Waste oils and solvents such as trichloroethane and trichloroethylene are examples of listed hazardous wastes which may be generated by various activities at your school such as cleaning, painting or automotive maintenance. A complete inventory of the "listed hazardous wastes" is contained in the hazardous waste regulations.

## Where can you go for help?

If you have questions about how environmental regulations apply to your school contact US EPA New England staff:

**Joan Jouzaitis: (617) 918-1846, [jouzaitis.joan@epa.gov](mailto:jouzaitis.joan@epa.gov)**

**Lee Fiske: (617) 918-1847, [fiske.lee@epa.gov](mailto:fiske.lee@epa.gov)**

**US EPA**

One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (SPN)

Boston, MA 02114-2023

For more information about the hazardous waste regulations or for help in obtaining a site-specific hazardous waste identification number contact the state's Compliance Assistance line:

**MA DEP's Hazardous Waste Management Program**

**(617) 292-5898**

1 Winter Street

Boston, MA 02108

Visit the MA DEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/bwp/dhm/hwforms.htm> to access applications and forms related to hazardous waste, including the Application for US EPA Identification Number/Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity in Massachusetts.

**EPA NEW ENGLAND:** <http://www.epa.gov/ne>